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**I. Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the State of Colorado to promote and encourage interoperability. Further, it is State policy to build, over time, a statewide data exchange framework that measurably improves the State's capability to access and exchange information and data among and between agencies.

Interoperability is defined as the capability for one system, and/or its components, to efficiently and effectively exchange information, data, and logic with one or more systems.

Statutory Authority

C.R.S. 24-37.5-101(1)(g); C.R.S. 24-37.5-105(3)(c); C.R.S. 24-37.5-106(1)(h);  
C.R.S. 24-37.5-202(1); C.R.S. 24-37.5-203(1).

Coordinating Agency Authority

C.R.S. 24-37.5-204 – State Agencies.

**II. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is threefold: 1) to provide more efficient network access for citizens, 2) to better leverage the State's IT investments by improving access capability and information exchange among and between state agencies, and 3) to establish or improve existing interoperability opportunities in State agencies.

The primary objectives of this policy are to:

1. Identify those business processes or objectives that can benefit from improved information sharing among state agencies.
2. Use a multi-phased approach to coordinate and direct the use of the State's communication and information resource technologies. Phase One is to identify common platforms and develop or improve their ability to communicate among each other.
3. Increase efficiencies and effectiveness of information retrieval and data exchange within and among the various state agencies, branches of government, and citizens of Colorado.

4. Use the Interoperability policy, standards, and guidelines to direct the continual improvement of data sharing and processes.
5. Identify, capture, and measure the synergies, simplifications, and savings from implementing and leveraging IT interoperability opportunities.
6. Plan future acquisitions to realize this goal.

### **III. Scope of the Policy**

This policy applies to all state agencies as defined by CRS 24-37.5-102(5). State agencies shall incorporate this policy's goals and objectives into their strategic planning and budget review process.

### **IV. Exemptions**

Agencies are discouraged from filing a request for exemption from this policy. The Governor's Offices of Innovation & Technology (OIT) and State Planning & Budgeting (OSPB) may jointly approve exemptions on a case-by-case basis if the request is supported by extraordinary circumstances. All requests for exemption will be handled as set forth under the procedures of the General Exemption policy.

### **V. Related Policies, Standards, Guidelines**

#### **A. Related Policies**

All interoperability efforts will be conducted in concert with the goals and objectives of the following OIT policies:

- ?? Security – promote and enhance security of the State's information technology and communication systems when implementing interoperability efforts.
- ?? Privacy – requires privacy be respected when implementing all interoperability efforts.
- ?? Aggregation – increase information sharing among agencies and reduces redundancies and eliminate workflow duplication.
- ?? Infrastructure – affects the capability, capacity, and operating configurations that impact scope, depth, and timing of the infrastructure.
- ?? Life-cycle Management – affects the scope and timing for achieving interoperability.

#### **B. Related Standards**

Standards shall direct and implement interoperability efforts by establishing common components and processes to be used by all state agencies.

The following standards are identified as having significant impact to consistently meeting interoperability goals and have been prioritized for immediate action:

1. Networks (TBD)

2. Server platforms (TBD)
3. Workstations (TBD)
4. Database (already exists)
5. Data Sharing (TBD)
6. Portal (TBD)
7. Shared Services (e-mail, web) (TBD)
8. Enterprise Applications (TBD)
9. Operating Applications (TBD)

C. **Related Guidelines**

**VI. Impact:**

State Agencies shall incorporate these policy components into their business strategies and the State's annual strategic planning and budget review process.

The Interoperability Policy assists the IMC in developing an approach to achieve statewide compatibility or accessibility of communications and information systems (C.R.S. 24-375-202(1)(c)).

The Interoperability Policy requires the OIT to do the following:

1. Inventory and assess the states' current communication and information resource technologies against its projected future user needs.
2. Identify opportunities for interoperability that will enhance effective and economical sharing of agency services, information, and processes.
3. Use the Interoperability policy, standards, and guidelines to direct information sharing strategies.
4. Establish a CIO work group to define the present and future user applications for interoperability among State agencies, and to develop appropriate interoperability standards and guidelines for implementing improvements.
5. Aid State agencies in the creation of migration plans that will enable them to come into compliance with standards associated with this policy.

The Interoperability Policy requires State agencies to do the following:

1. Identify opportunities to maximize interoperability in their annual IT strategic plans.
2. Utilize technologies that allow and encourage interoperability between agencies and tertiary organizations.
3. Develop and document the Department's operational policies and procedures that meet the unique needs of the agency's business and technical environments, and that support interoperability consistent with this policy.

The following are examples of current State IT projects being built that are integrated and streamlined to provide common shared services to improve interoperability. These systems are cost effective and eliminate the use of aging or ineffective legacy systems.

- ?? MNT – Multi-Use Network: A statewide, fiber-optic, digital network capable of carrying integrated voice, video, text, graphics, and other electronic data among schools, public libraries, higher education institutions, and state agencies. MNT eliminates redundant networks and enhances the IT environment for improved interoperability opportunities among state and local governments.
- ?? DTRS – Digital Trunk Radio Systems: A single integrated wireless digital network that will replace the aging and ineffective set of state-owned radio systems. DTRS will provide public safety and government agencies statewide access to sophisticated communications technology that will be less costly for state agencies. DTRS eliminates duplicate networks and enhances the IT environment for improved interoperability opportunities among state and local governments.
- ?? KRONOS timekeeping system: The migration of independent agency timekeeping systems to a centralized and integrated database will result in significantly reduced cost for state agencies.
- ?? CBMS – Colorado Benefits Management System: A single automated system, built upon a shared infrastructure, that integrates the current “stove-piped” series of human services and health care systems to streamline eligibility determination in county and non-county facilities statewide. The CBMS will replace five antiquated legacy systems, simplify “application and eligibility” processing through business process reengineering and automation, and improve data sharing among state and local human service and health care organizations.

**VII. Maintenance:**

OIT will review this policy annually.

**VIII. Effective Date:**

This policy shall be effective from the date of approval by the Chief Technology Officer of the State of Colorado.

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